

to be sent to the South through Paradip Port and whether the existing facilities are adequate at that Port or not. If not, is he proposing to provide the necessary facilities there? It is a fact that huge amount of coal is required to be sent to the South from Orissa for a number of thermal power plants there?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : In view of the infrastructure already available at Paradip Port and also the large scale expansion of port facilities for handling thermal coal being planned there, a view was taken that a second outlet may not be necessary which the Orissa Government had asked for. But I would like to inform the House about one point. It is estimated that Paradip Port can be used for handling up to about 30 to 35 million tonnes of thermal coal. The Central Electricity Authority has projected that by 2000 AD, the export from Talcher Coal Fields for coastal thermal power station in South India would go up to 32 million tonnes and may even increase beyond 32 million tonnes. So, right up to 35 million tonnes, I have got the facilities.

Third Aircraft Carrier for Navy

*105. **PROF. K. V. THOMAS :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken for the construction of the Third Aircraft Carrier for the Indian Navy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Sir, in the Eighth Lok Sabha, when a similar question was asked in this House, the then Defence Minister, Shri K. C. Pant gave an answer that it was under consideration of the Government of India to have a third aircraft carrier and the present two aircraft carriers, particularly the INS Vikrant, are in an obsolete stage. I would like to know whether the Government is considering the need to acquire a third aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy, keeping the security environment in view.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Because of the high cost of the aircraft carrier, we are not in a position to afford a third aircraft carrier. We have taken a conscious decision to continue to use the two aircraft carriers only and that is sufficient at this stage.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, Army personnel were demanding one rank one pay . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This question pertains to aircraft carriers. Your supplementary is not relevant. Please sit down.

Use of Electronic Voting Machines

*107. **SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :**
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions for use of electronic machines in elections have